We claim:

1   1.   A system for sharing information about an active content of a

2   sender peer with a recipient peer, comprising:

3   a sender peer comprising:

4   a first application module, for activating and outputting active content

5   from a data file;

6   a first chat module, communicatively coupled to the first application

7   module for sending information about the active content; and

8   a recipient peer comprising:

9   a second chat module, communicatively coupled to the first chat

10   module, for receiving and outputting the information about the

11   active content active on the sender peer.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the second chat module further

2   comprises a client module for requesting a stream of the active content and the first chat

3   module further comprises a server module for sending the stream of active content in

4   response to the request.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, the recipient peer further comprises a

2   second application module for automatically activating the active content stream.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the stream is substantially

2   synchronized with a portion of the active content currently active to the first application

3   module.

1   5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the second application module

2   allows active content playback control independent from the synchronized stream.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the active content information

2   comprises a unique identifier.

1   7.   The system of claim 6, wherein the recipient peer further

2   comprises a content information database, and the second chat module is configured to

3   use the unique identifier to retrieve local active content information from the content

4   information database.

1   8.   The system of claim 6, wherein the recipient peer uses the unique

2   identifier to retrieve active content information from an active content enhancement

3   server.

1   9.   The system of claim 1, further comprising an active content

2   enhancement server, communicatively coupled to the second chat module, for providing

3   supplements related to the active content.

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the content enhancement server

2   further comprises a content transaction module for processing a purchase related to one

3   or more sources containing the active content.

1   11.   The system of claim 9, wherein the active content enhancement

2   server further comprises a content supplement database containing supplemental

3   information related the active content.

1   12. The system of claim 9, further comprising a content repository

2 containing previews related to the one or more sources containing the active content, and

3 the active supplement database streams an active content preview to the recipient peer

4 responsive to receiving a unique identifier.

1   13. The system of claim 9, wherein the sender peer and the recipient

2 peer are communicatively coupled through a first network, and the recipient peer and the

3 content enhancement server are communicatively coupled through a second network.

1   14. The system of claim 9, wherein the sender peer further comprises a

2 content repository for storing content activated by the first application module.

1   15. The system of claim 9, wherein the first application module

2 comprises a first media player, the second application module comprises a second media

3 player, and a file format of the active content is compatible with the second application

4 module.

1   16. The system of claim 15, wherein the active content comprises an

2 active media.

1   17. The system of claim 16, wherein the active media comprises one

2 from the group consisting of an audio file and a video file.

1   18. The system of claim 1, wherein the information comprises a title

2 and a type of the active content.

1   19. The system of claim 1, wherein the first chat module is an instant

2   messaging application.

1   20.   The system of claim 1, wherein a display of the first chat module is

2   integrated within a display of the first application module.

1   21.   The system of claim 1, wherein the first chat module sends updated

2   active content information to reflect a change of active content.

1   22.   A method for sharing information about an active content of a first

2   peer with a second peer, comprising:

3   activating media content from a data file at a sender peer;

4   sending real time information about the active media content from the sender

5   peer to a recipient peer through a chat network connection responsive

6   to detecting active media content on the sender peer; and

7   receiving and outputting information about the active media content at the

8   recipient peer.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   streaming the active media content from the sender peer to the recipient peer.

1   24.   The method of claim 23, further comprising:

2   activating the active media content stream substantially in real time with the

3   activated media content at the recipient peer.

1   25.   The system of claim 22, further comprising:

2   retrieving supplemental information about the active media content by

3   querying a content enhancement server.

1   26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the supplemental information

2   includes graphic files related to the active media.

1   27.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   sending transaction information related to the active media content to the

3   recipient peer responsive to the recipient peer receiving information

4   about active media content; and

5   processing a transaction related to the transaction information.

1   28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the transaction is a purchase of

2   the active media content.

1   29.   The system of claim 22, wherein the activating comprises a first

2   media player activating media content, and the receiving comprises a chat module

3   receiving active media content information.

1   30.   The method of claim 22, wherein the active media content is an

2   audio file.

1   31.   The method of claim 22, wherein the information comprises a title

2   and a type of the active media content.

1   32.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   updating active media content information at the recipient peer responsive to a

3   change of active media content at the sender peer.

1   33.   A computer program product, comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium having computer program instructions and data

3   embodied thereon for sharing information about an active content of a

4   sender peer with a recipient peer, comprising:

5   activating content from a data file at the sender peer;

6   sending information about the active media content responsive to

7   detecting active content from the sender peer; and

8   receiving and outputting information about the active content at

9   the recipient peer.

1   34. The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising

2 instructions and data for:

3   streaming the active content through the peer-to-peer network to the recipient

4   peer.

1   35. The computer program product of claim 34, further comprising

2 instructions and data for:

3   activating the active content stream at the sender peer.

1   36. The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising

2 instructions and data for:

3   retrieving supplemental information about the active content by querying a

4   content enhancement server with a unique identifier.

1   37.   The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising

2   instructions and data for:

3   sending transaction information related to the active content to the recipient

4   peer responsive to the recipient peer receiving information about

5   active content; and

6   processing a transaction related to the transaction information.

1   38.   The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the

2   transaction is a purchase of the active content.

1   39.   The computer program product of claim 33, wherein activating

2   comprises a first media player activating media content, and receiving comprises a chat

3   module receiving active media content information.

1   40.   The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the active

2   content comprises an active media content.

1   41.   The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising

2   instructions and data for:

3   updating active content information at the recipient peer responsive to a

4   change of active content at the sender peer.

1   42.   A recipient chat module in a system for sharing active content

2   between a plurality of peers, comprising:

3   a communications module for receiving a one or more unique identifiers

4   based on shared active content on one or more sender peers;

5   a graphical user interface module for outputting one or more shared active

6   content information and receiving a selection of shared active content

7   associated with one of the one or more sender peers; and

8   a client module for sending a content stream request and receiving an active

9   content stream.

1   43.   The recipient chat module of clam 42, wherein the content stream

2 request comprises the unique identifier, and the recipient chat module sends the content

3 stream request to a content enhancement server containing previews of the associated

4 active content.

1   44.   The recipient chat module of clam 42, further comprising an

2 application module for activating the received active content stream.